

WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of March 14, 2011

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:15 P.M.
Present: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Chair Sherman Taylor, Board Members Christopher Codner, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough
Absent: Vice Chair Heidi Catalano, Member Janine Borgersen, Don Smith
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 7, 2011: Member Griffin made a Motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Member Hluchan seconded the Motion; the Motion passed.
3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:
4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Quinn reported that the Westvale Park Field Maintenance Bid Packets will be opened on March 29, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. Director Buchheister will report on a meeting of various geese deterrent methods proposed for use within the Borough.
5. DIRECTOR' S REPORT:
 - a. Winter Program Update: Director Buchheister reported that it has been a very successful season. A final analysis of the Winter Programs was presented and reviewed by the Board. The Basketball Program has gone very well; six of the eight divisions are finished. Girls Gr. 5 / 6 and the Boys High School Div. have playoffs this week. Travel Programs will have playoffs next week.
 - b. Banner Sponsorship Update: The Program has been very successful. Three additional sponsors in the Program are Care One, the N.J. Mavericks and Kessler Institute. Several more Westwood businesses have expressed interest. The Board congratulated Mr. Buchheister on the Program, the quality of the banners and the improved appearance of the Community Center Gym.
 - c. 2011 Spring Flyer: Director Buchheister presented the Spring Season Program Flyer. Discussion followed on the expansion of current programs and the addition of new programs.
 - d. Easter Egg Hunt – April 16: The Event details were presented and discussed including the program schedule, logistics, supplies, volunteer assistance, etc. Discussion followed on the seeding and irrigation project of Veterans Park and the possible impact on Veteran Park events by the proposed construction in the area of the Park.
 - e. Geese Control: Director Buchheister reported on a meeting held with himself, Sharon Blehl, Board of Health and Rick Woods of the D.P.W. to discuss geese deterrents in Westvale Park. Mr. Buchheister conferred with several recreation departments. Ridgewood reported that the geese population has been drastically reduced by use of the Geese Peace Program. Estimates are there are 944 fewer geese in Ridgewood and over 8,000 fewer geese on public property in Bergen County over the last eight years. Westwood residents previously involved in the program have been contacted and new volunteers are being sought to revamp Westwood's participation. Several municipalities including Allendale have implemented the Dog Patrol Program. A Volunteer Coordinator is needed to schedule teams of owners and dogs to patrol approved areas where dogs are allowed to run free. The teams must be approved by two current program members and the dogs are vested for public identification and awareness. The Borough has purchased six coyote replicas to place around the Westvale Park facility. The replicas will be moved on a regular basis by the D.P.W. Updates will be provided at the April Board Meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: Director Buchheister reported that the new field lighting system can be monitored and controlled off-site by himself and Rick Woods as well as by manual control. He will conduct a training session for the Baseball Assn. Commissioner and Softball Assn. President. Subsequent training sessions will be held for other sports organizations prior to their next season. Councilmember Quinn noted that the required system testing is still in progress.
- b. Community Center Use Policy: It has been discussed that custodians should be present in the facility during large, fund-raising events to assist the host organization with any situation that may arise as well as to ensure that the facility is properly cleaned and prepared for subsequent events. The host organization will be responsible for the custodial staff cost. There are many local, fund-raising charities which could use the Community Center which would also be a great benefit for Westwood. Custodians present in the facility would eliminate any current hindrance that organizations may experience.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Recreation and Parks Convention: Director Buchheister reported that the Convention held many benefits. There were many shared concerns and solutions presented. One of the seminars addressed the specific Real Estate benefits to municipalities that are able to provide good recreation programs.

Member Griffin departed the meeting at 8:50 P.M. for a previous commitment.

Another Convention topic was departmental long range planning. Director Buchheister is developing a ten- year plan for the Department and requests the Board's assistance in identifying areas of the programs and / or facilities that should be created or expanded. In conjunction with this, the Board is requested to help identify a specific slogan to be used as a cornerstone of the Department.

Chair Taylor and the Board congratulated Mr. Buchheister and Ms. McDonough for the changes that have occurred in the Department over the last few years regarding the expansion and scope of the programs as well as the competent and pleasant image that is presented to the residents and the public at large on a daily basis. The Board echoed Chair Taylor's remarks.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:18 P.M. by Member Codner seconded by Member Hluchan. The next meeting will be Monday, April 11, 2011 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.